

# apartheid in South Africa \*\*\*\*\*

majority of Black workers were paid less than the government's official poverty line. (PDL: Poverty Datum Line). The lowest-paid white worker at the Vereeniging plant earned at least \$191 above the PDL.

This disparity in wages is maintained by racist laws denying Black workers the right to form trade unions and protest their wages and working conditions. These are determined by government labor councils controlled by whites.

Dr. L.E. Knoll, chief executive of Massey-Ferguson in South Africa claims his Canadian shareholders would be "very unhappy" if Black workers were paid higher wages. Since the company obviously has the resources to substantially reduce or close the wage gap between Blacks and whites, it is evident that Massey-Ferguson intends to continue operating completely within the framework of the racist apartheid system.

According to Nangle's study, the total assets of Alcan Aluminum's South African subsidiary are more than \$41,300,000. However, at Alcan's Pietermaritzburg operation, the Black workers are paid extremely low wages in comparison to the white workers.

In addition, they are expected to purchase their own overalls and safety boots. There is no assistance to workers in obtaining adequate housing and educating their children.

The company has no regular bus service for its Black workers to their homes in the African townships, even though municipal buses are overcrowded before they reach the Alcan plant.

Alcan maintains expensive

in-training programs for non-white workers, but it is clear that these are maintained in the interest of improved production and profit and not in the interests of Black workers.

Falconbridge of Africa Ltd, a subsidiary of Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd., operates mines in Namibia and Rhodesia.

The Blanket Mine in Southern Rhodesia made a profit of \$1.3 million in 1972. Yet the starting wage for Blacks at the Blanket Mine was 56 cents a day in 1973.

Some Blacks who had worked for Falconbridge for more than 20 years received about \$45 per month. In contrast, some white workers involved in supervisory and maintenance work received \$810 per month.

Entire Black families are crowded into two-person shanties made of corrugated asbestos sheeting. Recreation facilities consist of a beerhall and a potholed soccer field. Whites, on the other hand, live in spacious, attractive houses and have access to a swimming pool, tennis court and clubhouse.

"It is not unfair," writes Nangle, "to charge that Falconbridge is operating a slave labor mine."

Falconbridge also operates a large copper mine in Namibia, or South West Africa, illegally administered by Vorster's regime.

Namibia is rich in minerals such as uranium, copper and diamonds. South Africa rules Namibia by virtue of "an international instrument", the Mandate of the U.A.

Attempts by South Africa to annex Namibia formally have been thwarted; but despite U.N. declarations, the economic ex-

ploitation of Black workers and plundering of the country's resources by foreign capitalists goes unhindered.

South African apartheid laws and practices are enforced in Namibia.

Canada actively encourages Falconbridge's mining operation by granting the corporation tax deductions. This directly contravenes a 1970 U.N. resolution declaring that all member states are obliged to "discourage" their companies from investing in Namibia.

Canada has repeatedly made statements condemning apartheid and the Vorster regime. In 1963, for instance, the U.N. placed an embargo on arms sales to South Africa. Canada supported the resolution. Yet military hardware manufactured by Alcan is used today against liberation struggles in Namibia.

The issue of Canadian involvement in South Africa extends to other southern African countries, as well. In December 1960, Canada voted in favour of a U.N. resolution pledging unconditionally to bring an end to colonialism. But in 1973, Mitchell Sharp, the then Secretary of State for External Affairs, refused to discuss the Portuguese liberation wars in the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) council, writing that it would be "neither appropriate nor effective." By allowing Portugal complete freedom to suppress Blacks, Sharp was pursuing the most "effective" means to high corporate profits and lucrative exploitation of Angola and Mozambique.

An important component of Canadian capitalist support for the repressive Vorster govern-

## Behind the diplomatic mask: wholesale plundering of workers and resources

ment, is Canada's membership in NATO.

Within its network, the Canadian ruling class gives substantial military support to the South African regime.

The African continent contains very strategic bases and resources which NATO allies are anxious to use for their own ends. The U.S. has a guided missile station and a space tracking station in South Africa. A naval surveillance system established with the help of NATO members at Silvermine allows South Africa to keep under surveillance an area from South America to Bangladesh. NATO forms and stock codes were used throughout this operation enabling South Africa to function as a de facto member of NATO.

Defense against the "threat" of Soviet ships in the Indian Ocean is a convenient pretext for NATO collaboration with Vorster's regime. In reality, these military agreements represent an attack on South Africa's Black workers. NATO members are fortifying their immense economic investments in South Africa against the country's explosive internal situation. In return for using South Africa's strategic bases, NATO provides the Vorster regime with arms to protect white racist rule and western investments.

The Canadian ruling class and its government remains silent in the face of western collaboration with apartheid. Through the common arms pool of NATO, Canadian military hardware frequently finds its way into the armories of South Africa.

As members of NATO, as arms manufacturer, as capitalist power, as investor in South Africa, the Canadian ruling class is responsible for supporting the crimes of the South African regime.

Black African workers are no longer willing to suffer these crimes in silence.

Their protests are shaking the very foundations of the apartheid regime. We must support them in their struggle for freedom. By putting pressure on Ottawa through rallies, demonstrations, petitions, talks, we can begin the task of educating Canadian workers about their oppressors' complicity in the Vorster government.

By boycotting products manufactured in South Africa, we withdraw support for the companies that exploit Black workers. We must refuse to participate with South Africa in any athletic, cultural and similar activities to destroy the myth of friendly diplomacy and interchange.



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### Course Evaluation Co-ordinator

This November students in all courses at the University of Alberta will be asked, by way of a questionnaire, to evaluate the teaching style, competition, degree of difficulty and content that they experienced in each of their courses. Once collected, the raw data from each class will be sent (after some computer analysis is done on it) to the appropriate professor for his perusal. No published course guide will appear in the 1976-77 school year.

#### Position:

The Students' Union needs an energetic aggressive student to co-ordinate the administration and collection of the questionnaire. It should be noted that the questionnaire has already been developed.

#### Qualifications:

Knowledge of statistics and computers would be an asset, but it is by no means essential.

#### Salary:

Negotiable

#### Applications:

Apply at the Students' Union General Office, Room 256, SUB. Deadline for applications - October 1st, 1976.

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